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SENATOR BEUTLER: So the NRDs have some authority, too, but the cities have no authority to...no clear authority to act in this area, and I think that's what Senator Elmer has intended to do.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Well thank you, Senator Beutler. I am...I am concerned because I have a large city in my district that I do know draw from water well...a water well field east of Fremont in that Platte Valley, and I was just wondering if this...if this...Senator Elmer, would this enhance the protection that they would have, give them...give them more authority to monitor, say, nitrogen, and so on, that may be...may be leeching into those water wells. Would you tell me a little bit about that? Senator Elmer, if he would respond, please.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Elmer, do you yield?

SENATOR ELMER: Certainly, Senator Kristensen. Yes, a wellhead protection area is exactly what it...what the name would imply that it is. If an in...if a city thinks that there's a potential, through some contaminating source, whether it's industrial, whether it's agricultural, whether it's some other potential way that the public water supply that is geologically or hydrologically connected to the water that that well is pumping, if there is some potential things out there that might impact that well, within a foreseeable future, this allows them through a process of public notice and participation, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality, to set up areas that are delineated as areas...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: ...of influence where the well water is drawn from so that potential contamination can be dealt with through some controls or rules and regulations, it could be set up through the public notice process, public participation, so that the people that might own that land around that well would be able to participate in and share in the responsibilities of maintaining a good quality public water supply.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Elmer, for the answers, and that helped quite a bit. Mr. Speaker, thank you.